

When JFK shot—

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Hunt not in Dallas, CIA director claims

DALLAS (AP) — An alleged CIA memo saying that Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt was in Dallas the day President John Kennedy was assassinated does not exist, according to the director of the intelligence agency.

"We have searched, and there is no such memo," Stansfield Turner said Monday. He was in Dallas to address a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention.

The Wilmington, Del., *News Journal* reported Sunday that a secret CIA

memorandum says Hunt was in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963.

Some theorists have said Hunt was seen on the "grassy knoll" adjacent to the old Texas School Book Depository from which the Warren Commission concluded Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired three rifle shots into the Kennedy motorcade.

According to the paper, the 1966 memo, now in the hands of the House Select Committee on Assassination, was

initialed by Richard M. Helms, former CIA director, and James J. Angleton, former CIA counterintelligence chief.

Turner said it was "always possible" that such a memo may have been removed from all files, but that it was "highly unlikely" because of the numbers of copies made of such correspondence.

Sources close to the committee are

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quoted by the paper as saying the memo reveals Helms and Angleton discussed Hunt's presence in Dallas and that his presence had to be kept secret because it would be damaging to the agency should it leak out.

The memo also says giving Hunt an alibi "ought to be considered." Turner said Hunt was "a former employee of ours."

Meanwhile, Hunt, now living in Miami, denied he was in Dallas on Nov.

22, 1963, saying he was in Washington and "took off at noon that day and went shopping and had a Chinese dinner in downtown Washington with my (since deceased) wife."

Hunt said he had never heard of the memo's existence.

However, the *News-Journal* quoted CIA sources as saying Hunt's story about being in Washington was a cover story concocted as a result of the memo.

Dawn Miller, spokeswoman for the assassinations committee, said there would be no comment on the report of the memo. The panel is due to begin hearings on the Kennedy assassination next month.

Helms and Angleton have been unavailable for comment.

Sunday, audio experts working for the assassinations committee fired rifle shots from the depository and rifle and pistol shots from a fence behind the knoll into sand bags simulating Kennedy's positions when the shots were fired.

The project was triggered by discovery of audio "blips" on a recording made accidentally when a Dallas motorcycle officer's radio microphone stuck in an open position during the assassination. Some people have said the recording indicates more than three shots were fired and that Oswald therefore did not act alone.

"I think the committee is doing a very fine and thorough job," Turner said. "We are cooperating in support of their investigation, providing them any information we have that they want."

No story in Wash. Post. This from AP's Maryland State wire. Page 1, col. 1, above fold in Frederick Post

Earlier, Laidner told me that Marchetti had written his story on this for right-wing magazine "Spotlight"